

## OPINION 589

**BERAEA STEPHENS, 1833 (INSECTA, TRICHOPTERA) : DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE-SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH CURRENT USAGE**

**RULING.**—(1) Under the plenary powers :

- (a) all designations of a type-species for the nominal genus *Beraea* Stephens, 1833, made prior to the present Ruling, are hereby set aside and the nominal species *Thya maurus* Curtis, 1834, is hereby designated to be the type-species of that genus ;
- (b) the specific name *pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798, as published in the binomen *Phryganea pygmaea*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The generic name *Beraea* Stephens, 1833 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above, *Thya maurus* Curtis, 1833, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name No. 1403.

(3) The specific name *maurus* Curtis, 1833, as published in the binomen *Thya maurus* (type-species of *Beraea* Stephens, 1833), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name No. 1715.

(4) The family name *BERAEIDAE* Wallengren, 1891 (type-genus *Beraea* Stephens, 1833) is hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology with the Name No. 290.

(5) The specific name *pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798, as published in the binomen *Phryganea pygmaea* (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name No. 616.

**HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 395)**

On 17 July 1949, Mr. D. E. Kimmins applied for the use of the plenary powers to designate a type-species in harmony with accustomed usage for the nominal genus *Beraea* Stephens, 1833, a genus based on a *nomen dubium*. Mr. Kimmins's application was sent to the printer on 27 February 1959 and was published on 1 October 1959 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 17 : 32–34.

Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in this case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51–56) and to seven entomological serial publications.

An alternative proposal was received from Professor Ernst Mayr on 10 October 1959 and was published in 15 December 1959 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 17 : 68 together with a provisional note by Mr. Kimmins. Support for Mr. Kimmins's proposal was received from Dr. L. Botosáneanu and Dr. D. C. Denning (also published in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 17 : 68) and from Dr. H. H. Ross (Illinois State Natural History Department, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.), Dr. G. B. Wiggins (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada), and Dr. W.

Döhler (Klingenberg a.M., Germany). The Commission was informed of further correspondence between Mr. Kimmins and the Secretary to the Commission in the following report which was sent to Members of the Commission on 7 April 1960 together with Voting Paper (60)2.

“ 1. The object of this application (*Bull. 17* : 32-4) is to give a sound basis to the species *Thya maurus* Curtis, 1834, as type-species of *Beraea* by suppression of the doubtful name *Phryganea pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798. Professor Ernst Mayr has proposed (*Bull. 17* : 68) that Mr. Kimmins designate the type-specimen of *maurus* to be the neotype of *pygmaea*. Acting upon this advice Mr. Kimmins borrowed the type-material of *Thya maurus* from the Melbourne Museum and has selected a lectotype for that species. The paper recording this selection is at present in press and will shortly be published in the *Entomologists' Gazette*. Mr. Kimmins, however, in a letter to the Commission's office dated 14 January objected to Professor Mayr's proposal of a neotype designation for *pygmaea* in the following words :—

‘ It certainly had not occurred to me that Ernst Mayr's proposal involved the dropping of the well-known name *maurus* Curtis in favour of *pygmaea* Fabricius. I consider that this would be most undesirable and it was with the intention of safeguarding the current use of *maurus* Curtis that I made my original application to the Commission.

‘ The more I consider the problem, the more I think that the name *Phryganea pygmaea* Fabricius should be suppressed in favour of *Thya maurus* Curtis. The Fabrician name has not been in general use for at least ninety years and the identity of *pygmaea* Fabricius has remained uncertain. McLachlan in 1879 considered it only a “great probability” that Fabricius had a species of *Beraea* before him when describing *Phryganea pygmaea* and, as stated in para. 2 of my application, he referred the name *pygmaea* doubtfully to *pullata*, not to *maurus*.

‘ I do not know what other steps I could take to prove that the type of *pygmaea* is either lost or destroyed. There seems to be no point in enquiring from other known repositories of the Fabrician collection, since the specimen in question never was a part of that collection but of the Bosc collection in Paris.

‘ There is general agreement amongst Trichopterists as to what species Curtis's *maurus* represents, and having examined his type-series, I shall be able to designate a lectotype in conformity with current usage of this name. I therefore do not propose to designate this lectotype as also the neotype of *Phryganea pygmaea* Fabricius and would prefer that the Commission should vote on my original proposal.’

“ 2. Mr. Kimmins's application has been supported by L. Botosáneanu (*Bull. 17* : 68), D. C. Denning (*Bull. 17* : 68) and by H. H. Ross (Illinois State Natural History Department, Urbana, Illinois, U.S.A.), Dr. Walter Döhler (Frankfurt a.M., Germany) and G. B. Wiggins (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada).

“ 3. The Commission, therefore, has now to choose between Dr. Kimmins's proposals as set out in *Bull. 17* : 33-34, which will stabilise the nomenclature in its current usage, and Professor Mayr's proposals which will have the opposite

effect. In order to adopt Professor Mayr's proposal the Commission would have to take the following action :—

- (1) designate the lectotype of *Thya maurus* Curtis, 1834, to be the neotype of *Phryganea pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798 ;
- (2) place the generic name *Beraea* Stephens, 1833 (gender : feminine) type-species, by selection by Westwood, 1839, *Phryganea pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798 (as interpreted by the neotype designated in (1) above) on the Official List of Generic Names ;
- (3) place the specific name *pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798, as published in the binomen *Phryganea pygmaea* (type species of *Beraea* Stephens, 1834) on the Official List of Specific Names ;
- (4) place the specific name *maurus* Curtis, 1834, as published in the binomen *Thya maurus* (a junior objective synonym of *Phryganea pygmaea* Fabricius) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names ;
- (5) place the family name **BERAEIDAE** on the Official List of Family-Group Names.

“ 4. The Voting Paper (60)2 therefore presents two alternatives. In part 1 Commissioners are asked to vote for or against the proposals made by Mr. Kimmins (involving the use of the plenary powers) and in part 2 Commissioners are asked to vote either for or against the proposals made by Professor Mayr (not involving the use of the plenary powers).”

#### DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

Voting Paper (60)2 was circulated to Members of the Commission under the Three-Month Rule together with the above report on 7 April 1960. This Voting Paper was divided into two parts : Part 1 called for a vote either for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 17 : 33-34 ; Part 2 called for an alternative vote for or against the proposals presented by Professor Mayr as set out in the above report. At the close of the Voting Period on 7 July 1960 the state of the voting was as follows :

For Part 1—nineteen (19) votes, received in the following order : Mayr, Vokes, Boschma, Holthuis, Hering, Jaczewski, Riley, Lemche, Dymond, do Amaral, Obruchev, Uchida, Stoll, Key, Prantl, Kühnelt, Poll, Bonnet, Tortonese ;

For Part 2—two (2) votes : Mertens, Miller.

Votes not returned—two (2) : Brinck, Cabrera.

Commissioner Hemming returned a late vote in favour of Part I.

On Leave of Absence—one (1) : Bradley.

The following comments were sent by Commissioners with their votes :

(a) *Professor Ernst Mayr* (19.iv.60).—After pointing out that he had added to his own proposals the qualifying phrase “ provided *pygmaea* had not become a *nomen oblitum* ”, Professor Mayr wrote : “ The original proposal by Kimmins was, of course, quite deficient because it gave the wrong reasons for the suppression of *pygmaea* Fabricius. It merely referred to it as a *nomen dubium* for reasons of the absence of the type (which is true of thousands of animals) but not that the name has not been used for 90 years or more. This should

be made the key note of the suppression. If we suppress all names without type, a high percentage of the Linnean species would have to be suppressed".

(b) *Dr. Per Brinck* (23.iv.60).—"I have given no vote because of the following reasons :

"I agree that it is not possible to identify with certainty the species *Phryganea pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798, on the basis of the description only. An examination of the typical material is necessary, as in many other similar cases. An official at the Paris Museum has been asked whether the type was still in existence, but has replied that 'it could not be traced'.

"From my own experience I know that such a reply does not say the whole truth. Such typical material should be sought for by a specialist of the group—or a specialist of Fabrician material. I refer to the fine detective work of Mrs. Ella Zimsen (Copenhagen) who for years has been gathering all data about the Fabrician collections and their contents. Amongst others, she visited Paris some time ago and found in the Bosc collection—specimens which had been said to be lost, e.g. *Aphodius anachoreta*. I am not ready to vote on this case until we know either that it is most probable that the typical material of Fabricius's species is lost or destroyed or that this material has been refound and examined".

In reply to a letter from the Secretary of the Commission Mrs. Ella Zimsen informed us that she had not found any animal marked *pygmaea* in any collection of Fabrician material examined by her.

#### ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists and Indexes by the Ruling in the present Opinion :

*Berea* Stephens, 1833, *Nomen. Brit. Ins.* (ed. 2) : 118

*BERAEIDAE* Wallengren, 1891, *K. Svensk. Vetensk.-Akad. Handl.* 24(10) : 111

*maurus*, *Thya*, Curtis, 1834, *Lond. Edinb. phil. Mag.* (3) 4 : 216

*pygmaea*, *Phryganea*, Fabricius, 1798, *Suppl. Ent. syst.* : 202

The following is the original reference for the selection of a lectotype for a nominal species concerned in the present Ruling :—

For *Thya maurus* Curtis, 1843      Kimmens, 1960, *Entomologist's Gazette* 11(4) : 202-203

#### CERTIFICATE

WE certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (60)2 were cast as set out above, that the proposals set out in the Voting Paper have been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 589.

N. D. RILEY  
Secretary

W. E. CHINA  
Assistant Secretary

*International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*

*London*  
21 September 1960